



“Exquisitely For Ella: A Songbook Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald”

A huge show featuring three great jazz singers paying tribute to Ella Fitzgerald. The program consists of soloists, backed by an expanded Chicago Jazz Orchestra including 17 strings, harp, and french horns. Works from the great Ella Fitzgerald songbooks including Gershwin, Cole Porter, Harold Arlen, and Jerome Kern. Featuring Frieda Lee, Dee Alexander, and Spider Saloff on vocals.

- 43 musicians
Can also be downsized with less strings



“A Tribute to Ray Charles”

An exciting performance including original, vintage Ray Charles arrangements, as well as charts from the “Genius & Soul = Jazz” album, Hammond B-3, three great Raelettes (The Chi-JO-lettes), a full big band, and acclaimed Chicago singer Perrian Jordan. For a special treat, legendary Ray Charles’ band leader and tenor sax great, David ‘Fathead’ Newman, brings it all home.

- 23 musicians



Kurt Elling with The Chicago Jazz Orchestra

The #1 male jazz vocalist, and Concord recording artist, Kurt Elling headlines this spectacular performance with The Chicago Jazz Orchestra. New arrangements as well as classics from their Kennedy Center appearances. Seven Grammy nominations and eight-time Downbeat Critics Poll Winner for Male Vocalist of the Year, Kurt Elling sets the standard.

-19 musicians



Holiday Concert with Special Guest Ann Hampton Callaway

Ann Hampton Callaway leads the CJO in performing the original arrangements of The Barbara Streisand Christmas Album. The selections are fully orchestrated arrangements of holiday standards loved and cherished by all. Additionally, Callaway’s original composition, “The Christmas Lullaby”, which was recorded on the Barbara Streisand album, “Christmas Memories” will be performed.

- 40 musicians



“A Tribute to Artie Shaw”

A unique tribute to Artie Shaw, which includes original works for full big band and strings, as well as works from his acclaimed Gramercy Five material. Featuring solo performances by Eric Schneider or Larry Combs on clarinet. 34 musicians including full big band and 15 strings.

- 34 musicians

Can also be downsized with less strings



Three Generations of Cuban Jazz with Chuchito Valdes

Chuchito Valdes represents a third generation of Cuban musicians who have contributed significantly to the development of Latin Jazz. Chuchito’s grandfather, Bebo Valdes (b.1918) was a major pianist, composer, and leader of the famous Tropicana Orchestra in Havana. Chuchito’s father, Chucho Valdes (b.1941) is also a renowned pianist and past leader of the famous Irakere Orchestra. Many of the arrangements for this program have been transcribed from original recordings and have been debuted in the U.S. by the Chicago Jazz Orchestra.

– 23 musicians



Small Hall Programs

Jazz Goes Hollywood: Featuring Famous TV and Movie Themes

The CJO features some of the greatest big band music composed for television and movie sound tracks from the 50’s, 60’s 70’s and beyond, including music from The Dick Van Dyke Show, I Love Lucy, Mission Impossible and Mannix.

- 18 musicians



Big Band Cavalcade

The Chicago Jazz Orchestra pays tribute to all the great big bands from the height of the big band era including selections from Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Stan Kenton, Tommy Dorsey, Woody Herman and more. A definite crowd pleaser!!

- 18 musicians